



**METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION**

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-4700  
TEL 510.817.5700  
TTY/TDD 510.817.5769  
FAX 510.817.5848  
E-MAIL [info@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:info@mtc.ca.gov)  
WEB [www.mtc.ca.gov](http://www.mtc.ca.gov)

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Napa County and Cities

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Alameda County

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City and County of San Francisco

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and Urban Development

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Bay Area Toll Authority

**Therese W. McMillan**  
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

**Legislation Committee  
March 14, 2008  
Minutes**

Vice Chair Yeager called the committee to order at 11:45 a.m. Members attending: Azumbrado, Chu, Dodd, Giacopini, Halsted, Spering, and Worth. Also attending: Commissioner Tissier.

**Minutes**

Minutes of the Feb. 8 meeting were approved after a motion by Commissioner Spering, seconded by Commissioner Dodd.

**Legislative History**

Ellen Griffin distributed copies of the Mar. 7 edition of the history and reviewed bills of interest to the committee, noting the Apr. 18 deadline for bills to be heard in policy committees.

Commissioner Dodd asked if there was a bill to lower voter approval threshold from a two-thirds majority to 55percent [for bonds, yes, ACA 10; however, not yet for sales tax measures]. After discussion, the committee agreed with a motion by Commissioner Dodd and a second by Commissioner Spering to direct staff to pursue such a bill for sales tax ballot measures.

Regarding AB 2870 to create a California Blueprint Implementation Commission, Commissioner Spering asked staff to add the bill to the committee's agenda next month.

**Legislative Visits**

Ms. Griffin said that May 7 was set for Sacramento advocacy from noon to 1:30 p.m., and on that same day as many meetings as possible with Senators and the Transportation Committee Chairs in both legislative houses would be sought. She encouraged all members of the Legislation Committee to attend on May 7.

**State Legislation**

Randy Rentschler presented the following bills to the committee for consideration.

- SB 1731 (Yee) to add an extra dollar to the \$1 fee now paid by motorists who register their vehicles in the nine-county region.
- AB 2094 (DeSaulnier) to make the Bay Conservation and Development Commission a full, voting member of the Joint Policy Committee.
- SB 344 (Machado) to provide statutory clarification for local governments to temporarily re-purchase outstanding bonds without causing their bonds to be extinguished or defeased.

Moved by Commissioner Chu and seconded by Commissioner Worth, SB 1731 and AB 2094 were unanimously referred to Commission for approval of a "support" position; on the same motion the committee ratified a "support" position on SB 344 and unanimously referred it to Commission for approval.

**Transportation 2035 Public Participation Update**

Catalina Alvarado presented an overview of public participation activities for MTC's Transportation 2035 Plan this spring, including a series of workshops around the region – one in each county. She said MTC will contract with community-based organizations for assistance recruiting residents in low- income communities and communities of color to participate in

focus group discussions about investment trade-offs, and will continue to make its Web site an on-line source of information about ongoing efforts to update the regional transportation plan, including interactive surveys.

#### **MTC Excellence in Motion Awards**

Pam Grove reminded commissioners how helpful their assistance is in getting the word out about MTC's awards program to spotlight the positive news about transportation. For Commissioner Giacomini, the grand award was clarified as one that generally recognizes large projects, such as Caltrain's baby bullet. Nominations will be accepted through Friday, May 9, 2008.

MTC advisor Rich Hedges spoke on behalf of the late Congressman Tom Lantos's achievements in transportation, which Mr. Hedges said he would submit in an awards application.

#### **Tom Bulger's Report**

Mr. Bulger's report was received by the committee.

#### **Other Business/Public Comment/Adjourn**

As public comment, Carli Paine of the Transportation and Land Use Coalition (TALC) said her organization supports AB 2744 (Huffman) to authorize MTC to seek voter approval to impose a regional fee of up to 10-cents per gallon on motor vehicle fuel (excluding aircraft fuel). There was no other business or public comment. The next meeting was scheduled for Apr. 11, 2008, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.